THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Bank of India, sponsoring bank of Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Darbhanga has reported that although appointment letters were issued by the Gramin Bank to all the nine empannelled candidates, only eight candidates have responded and there was no communication from the ninth candidate. As regards giving chance to the next candidate in the panel below the 9th candidate, the matter is reported to have been referred to NABARD by the Gramin Bank.

Sericulture Industry

3764. SHRI JAGADISH JANI . Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced a comprehensive programme in the North Eastern region to give a new thrust to agro-based sericulture industry;

(b) if so, the details of the areas in North-Eastern region where such scheme is being introduced; and

(c) the amount earmarked in 1988-89 for implementing the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to to (c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments of North Eastern Region, the Central Silk Board has established the following Research, Development Seed and Extension Units in the Region for giving a thrust to the Sericulture Industry :—

(1) Regional Sericulture Research Station, Jorhat (Assam).

(2) Regional Muga Research Station, Boko (Assam).

(3) Regional Tasar Research Station, Imphal (Manipur).

(4) 3 Research Extension Centres for Mulberry, one each in Manipur, Nagaland and in Tripura.

(5) 3 Muga Research Extension Centres, one each in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

(6) 3 Eri Research Extension Centres, one each in Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

(7) 4 Tasar Extension Centres, one each in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.

(8) 7 Oak Tasar Grainage-cum-Extension Centres, one each in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram and two each in Manipur and Nagaland.

(9) 1 Mulberry Silkworms Seed Production Centre in Assam.

(10) 1 Muga Raw Material Bank in Assam.

Further, for demonstrating the improved technique of Mulberry cultivation, Silkworm rearing and control of pest and diseases, the Central Silk Board in Collaboration with the States, has introduced a Scheme for establishing 200 Demonstration Centres in farmers fields with half an acre each of mulberry plantation. The No. of Centres to be established in each state are as under :—

State	No. of Centres
Assam	100
Meghalaya	30
Manipur	30
Nagaland	10
Tripura	10
Arunachal Pradesh	10
Mizoram	10

In Central Silk Board's budget for the year 1988-89, a budget provision of Rs. 115.50 lakhs has been earmarked for Research, Development Seed and Extension support in the North-Eastern Region.

Aid from Japan

3765. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has been providing fund to India for the development of infrastructure for Tourism and Agriculture;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of aid given by Japan for that purpose so far;

(c) whether Japan has proposed to step up aid in the current financial year; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total amount of aid given by Japan for development of infrastructure for tourism and agriculture so far has aggregated Yen 18.828 Billion equivalent to Rs. 203.32 crores approximately.

(c) and (d) For the current financial year (1988-89) Japan has pledged a loan assistance of Yen 87.834 Billion equivalent to Rs. 948.53 crores approximately to India for implementation of projects in power, tourism, small scale enterprises, irrigation, fertilizer, industrial and ports modernisation sectors. The pledge of assistance for 1988-89 represents an increase of 28 per cent. in Yen terms, over the normal loan assistance of Yen 68 477 Billion equivalent to Rs. 739.50 crores approximately pledged for 1987-88.

Payment of Loans of Sick Shipping Companies

3766. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has declined to take over the responsibility of paying the entire outstanding loans of sick shipping companies due to commercial banks;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of outstanding loan which is not being paid by the shipping companies; and

(c) what would be its financial implications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Commercial Banks had provided in the past loans under Ship Acquisition from abroad under new scheme (SAFAUNS) as well as foreign exchange loans to several private sector shipping companies in connection with acquisition of ships. These loans were in several cases guaranteed|counter-guaranteed by the Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC). At the time of the abolition of the Shipping Development Fund Committee on 3rd April, 1987, the principal amount of bank loans outstanding from private sector shipping companies and which had been guaranteed|counter-guaranteed by SDFC stood at Rs. 366.75 crores. Following abolition of the SDFC, in terms of the provisions of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 the liabilities of the SDFC have vested in the Central Government.